Making the 5th to 6th Grade Transition
Welcome to Miles River Middle School!

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Academics
GETTING COMFORTABLE IN YOUR NEW SCHOOL

• All 6th grade lockers are located in the first floor hallway
• Almost all 6th grade core classrooms are in the first floor hallway
• 6th graders take all of their classes with 6th graders only
• 6th graders have lunch together and at the same time as half of the 7th grade class
• Each 6th grader will be part of a small group, and each small group will have at least one 8th grade mentor
• During the first quarter, the guidance counselor will meet with each 6th grader to find out how their transition to middle school is going and help them with any questions or concerns they may be having.

SUBJECT MATTERS

There are 7 class periods each day
The following classes meet every day:
  • English
  • Social Studies
  • Math
  • Science
  • Foreign Language
The other 2 class periods are for Integrated Academics (IA). IA's change every quarter. The IA's are:
  • Music
  • Art
  • Drama
  • Life Skills
  • PE (taken year-round)
Students have the option to sign up for band or chorus, which meet during school hours in place of an academic support.
Letter Grading
In middle school, students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F (+/-) on their report cards. Letter grades have the following numerical values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>62-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or below</td>
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</table>

Homework Requirements
Homework in middle school is graded and averaged in as a portion of a student's grade. This must be explained to rising 6th graders so they understand that they will be held accountable for correctly completing homework, and that their grades may drop if they consistently do not turn in completed homework in a timely fashion. Typically, the homework load is 20 minutes per subject per day.

Time Management/Study Habits
Students have seven classes in a school day with seven different teachers, seven different expectations, and sometimes seven different homework assignments! Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit in to their busy schedules is homework - whether completing assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Learning and utilizing study skills is an important lesson for a 6th grader. Your 6th grade teachers will spend a lot of time throughout the year teaching and demonstrating what good study skills looks like.
**Agenda Book**

One of the most important objects a student will possess in middle school is the agenda book which is provided to all students by the Friends of Miles River. The agenda book is essentially a planning book in which students can write down homework assignments, upcoming projects, dated activities, or any other important information. The agenda book has both monthly calendars and weekly calendars. Each day has spaces to write information about each class that a middle school student would have. Because 6th graders will have many different classes and teacher expectations to keep track of, writing everything down is essential.

What do we use the **Monthly Calendar** for?
- To keep track of long term assignments
- To record when tests and/or quizzes are scheduled

What do we use the **Weekly Calendar** for?
- To record daily homework assignments and any special instructions the teachers give you
- Write down what supplies you will need to complete the assignment
- Prioritize your assignments
- Put a (1) next to the most important assignment, a (2) next to the second most important assignment, and so on
- Check off assignments as they are completed
- Use the "after school" section to schedule time for homework/studying

**Binders**

In addition to agenda books, each student will keep a homework binder and a separate binder for each class. Students will be provided with a list of supplies needed by the beginning of the school year.

**White binder = homework binder (includes agenda book, 2-pocket folder for daily assignments, and pencil case)**

You will also have a different binder for English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Foreign Language
Core Academics

**English**

Language Arts classes integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will participate in brainstorming sessions preceding writing, peer and teacher conferences, revision of drafts, and publication of final pieces. Mechanical and grammatical skills will be taught in context. Word cells vocabulary, not in context, is taught to help the students build an understanding of the relationship between word parts and new vocabulary.

**Math**

Math class will cover topics in Algebra, Geometry, and Measurements including Number Patterns and Functions, Statistics and Graphs, Fractions and Decimals, Percent and Probability, Angles and Polygons, Perimeter, Area, and Volume, Integers and Transformations, Properties and Equations.

**Science**

The sixth grade curriculum is the integration of physical, biological, earth and environmental topics. Concept development and scientific process skills are emphasized as essential goals. To achieve literacy, students practice inquiry-based science and use higher order thinking skills in problem solving.

**Social Studies**

Students will explore various ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, Egypt, Phoenicia, India, Israel, China, Greece and Rome. They will also learn about sources and timelines and Early Man / Human Origins through the Neolithic Age.

**Foreign Language**

Sixth grade students will be learning a wide variety of vocabulary ranging from the alphabet, numbers, and colors to the house, family, and clothing. They will also dive into grammar as well as learn a little bit about different countries and their cultures.
**Art**
Sixth grade art class consists of painting and drawing lessons which focus on personal self-discovery, emphasis on the use of contour line, color mixing and composition. Lessons include observation drawing and exploration with new materials. Concepts include asymmetry, use of resist in painting, relief work, cartooning and self-portraiture. Students will also use shape to create a variety of compositions. Continued exploration of new methods and materials will include printmaking as well.

**Drama**
Through warm-up activities, rehearsing, performing and critiquing scenes, students will explore the question: What is drama? Most of the material used in the course will be created by the students in the form of improvisations and scene ideas. To create this material, students will work in pairs, small groups, and as a whole class. Topics to be addressed include: character development, dramatic structure, conflict, stage awareness, and subtext.

**Life Skills**
Students will practice healthy skills necessary to make good decisions regarding basic concepts of human development, mental health, sexuality, parenting, physical education and fitness, nutrition and disease prevention, and alcohol/other drugs and addiction. Life skills addresses the social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and environmental needs of young adolescents, as well as the emerging persistent health concerns of individuals and families.

**Music**
6th grade students will study rhythm, instruments and their families, Orff instruments and composition, and opera. Students will be challenged to analyze and dissect music for its elemental structure.

**PE**
6th grade curriculum consists of:
- Soccer
- Bowling
- Badminton
- Bowling
- Volleyball
- Fitness
- Group Activities
Band

Erik Fecke
Director of Bands
e.fecke@hwschools.net

An all-encompassing music group that performs at least two concerts during the school year, that being the Winter and Spring concerts. The 6th Grade Band may also play at venues and events deemed educationally worthy by the Director throughout the year. Literature will consist of music pulled from across the spectrum of Wind Band compositions.

Chorus

6th Grade Chorus is a place to sing your heart out, be yourself, meet new friends and learn more about music and singing than you ever have before. Anyone can be in Chorus - just sign up! There's no audition, no fee, and it meets during school. We perform 4 concerts a year, and sing fun songs from all over the world, and in lots of different languages. Come join all your old and new friends here in Chorus!

Abby Frost, Choral Conductor, a.frost@hwschools.net
Academic Support

Academic Support is a time for you to work on homework assignments and projects, meet with teachers for extra help, visit the library, or organize your binders.

During Academic Support, you may choose to work on any of the following:

- Daily Homework
- Projects
- Independent reading/responses
- Study for a test or quiz
- Make-up work
- Organize binders
- Organize locker (with a pass)
- Library/Research (with a pass)
- Meet with a teacher (with a pass)
- Test or quiz make-up (with a pass)
Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility

It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to learn! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. As with everything in life, students will get out of middle school what they put into it.

Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports/activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings.

The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful.
Peer Pressure and Bullying

Peer Pressure
Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured, or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative.

Examples of positive peer pressure are encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport.

Examples of negative peer pressure are someone encouraging students to smoke, drink alcohol, or skip school.

In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful:
1. Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs
2. Be assertive—tell friends what you like/don't like
3. Don't use alcohol or other drugs
4. Avoid situations in which you know you could get in trouble
5. Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way
6. Talk with trusted adults about situations that you do not understand and/or that make you feel uncomfortable.

Bullying
Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. Help is available to students who feel they are being bullied. Students are always encouraged to report bullying behaviors to a trusted adult.

The district's Anti-Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and Policy can be found on the District website.

We also implemented the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in the 2012-2013 school year. More information can be found on our website.
The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is:
- Designed for all students (K to 12)
- Preventive and Responsive
- Focused on Promoting a Positive School Climate

Our School Climate Expectations
1. We will treat others with kindness, respect, and tolerance.
2. We will try to help students who are mistreated or bullied.
3. We will try to include students who are left out.
4. If we know that somebody is being mistreated or bullied, we will tell a trusted person(s) who can help (i.e. teacher, coach, mentor, community leader, older sibling, parent)

BEHAVIOR RUBRIC:
We will be expecting all students to uphold the School Climate Expectations. If they are not followed, consequences will be given. There are three levels of consequences and behaviors:

- **YELLOW:** Unacceptable Behaviors
- **ORANGE:** Serious Behaviors
- **RED:** Most Serious Behaviors

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR RECOGNITION SYSTEM:
Faculty will be looking for students who are going above and beyond to uphold the school climate expectations. Faculty can nominate students who have been "caught doing the right thing". Those students will receive a certificate and their name will be entered into a drawing at the end of the quarter for a chance to win some great prizes! They will also be recognized within the school building by having a fish placed in our river motif located in the front lobby.

CLASS MEETINGS:
- Held at least twice a month.
- Covering many topics throughout the year - bullying, respect, and prejudiced language, to name a few.

For more information, visit the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program webpage, which can be found on the Miles River homepage.
Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. The 5th grade classes from Buker, Cutler, and Winthrop Elementary will all be joining as one, and there may be new students coming in from private schools or from other towns. Some tips for making new friends are:

**Act friendly.** Smile a lot, be kind and courteous to others. Compliment people, without being annoying or fake. Always keep your head held high and never cross your arms over your chest or scowl, because that makes you seem mean and unfriendly.

**Join a club or activity.** As simple as it might sound, joining an activity group or club can really increase your friendship circle. And who knows, you might have a talent for something you aren’t even aware of, and you may develop a new skill.

**Just say hi!** Go up to someone you would like to get to know and say “Hi” and offer a compliment or ask them a few questions. Smiles, but don’t be over-the-top friendly or happy.

**Take care of yourself.** Eat healthy, take regular showers/baths, and wash your face. A little hygiene can make all the difference.

**Stay out of “drama”.** In the middle school, drama is around every corner. One little something said on IM, text message, or Facebook can ruin your reputation and destroy friendships. Try and be neutral if two groups of people who you’re friends with start fighting. Stay away from people who start drama for the fun of it: you could end up getting hurt.

**Be Yourself** It may sound cheesy, but the best friends are the ones who know the real you. Don’t start wearing different clothes to make friends, just be yourself and see if they’re friends potential. It really is what’s on the inside that counts.

**Don’t Gossip.** If you say mean things behind a person’s back, they WILL find you. Don’t be a gossip; don’t spread gossip.

**Be Open** to new experiences and new people. Keep your option open by being open-minded! Middle school is a great place to make new friends.
Student Clubs and Activities!
Intramurals

Fall
- Field Hockey
- Cross Country
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Golf
- Girls' Volleyball
- Boys' Volleyball

Winter
- Indoor Soccer
- Dodgeball
- Badminton

Spring
- Track and Field

*THE SPECIFIC INTRAMURALS THAT ARE OFFERED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE EACH YEAR*

THERE IS A SMALL FEE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE INTRAMURAL ACTIVITIES
Clubs

ART CLUB

CHORALE

COLLEGE BOWL

GUITAR CLUB

JAZZ BAND is full standard "swing" band that performs full dance-band charts.

JAZZ COMBO performs jazz standards with an emphasis on solos.

Auditions are held at the beginning of the school year.

MATH TEAM

MUSICAL PRODUCTION

YEARBOOK

THE SPECIFIC CLUBS THAT ARE OFFERED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE EACH YEAR
THERE IS A SMALL FEE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE SCHOOL CLUBS/ACTIVITIES
About Student Council

Student Council is a fun way for students to make new friends, be positive role models, learn about governmental procedures, serve for classmates, and promote school and community spirit and pride. In this organization, students have an opportunity to lead in approved activities.

Student Council Goals

- Provide opportunities to develop personal and social responsibility skills
- Generating meaningful activities for decision making, interaction with peers, and leadership
- Making opportunities for students to use many skills to solve problems, such as social skills, interpersonal, communication, academic, and organizational skills
- To create a safe humane environment for students, while learning how to be leaders
- To develop respect for people that are different then themselves
- To learn and demonstrate learning and caring behaviors

Student Council Results and Outcomes

- Increase of self esteem in the students
- Increase of self-concept as a learner
- To have caring behaviors within the school
- To have acceptance and respect for individual differences
- To provide many diverse opportunities for students success
This group of creative individuals creates a daily news show for the homerooms of Miles River.

Please contact Wendy Linkin for further details.

w.linkin@hwschools.net
School Buses and Dismissal

The list of bus routes is posted inside the two sets of doors in the front of the middle school just before you walk into the lobby. Also, they are posted in the Chronicle a week before school starts.

The buses are usually lined up in numerical order, and the Bus Number is posted on the bus window.

There is always a faculty member outside that is available to assist any students who are having trouble finding their bus.

A change from elementary school: You do NOT need a note to ride on a friend’s bus (just make sure your parents know).

Dismissals:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday — 2:20pm
Wednesday — 1:30pm

Late bus is usually provided at least 2 days out of the week. More information (i.e. day, time) will be given in the beginning of the school year.

Lunch/Cafeteria Information

There are assigned seats at lunch that you choose in the beginning of the year. 6th graders eat together and with half the 7th grade.
Counselor’s Role at Miles River Middle School

Guidance Counselor
Ms. Jessica Clark
978-468-0396
j.clark@hwschools.net

Mission Statement
The mission of the Miles River Middle School Guidance Program is to partner with parents, community, faculty and staff to provide a comprehensive, developmental counseling program addressing the academic, career, and personal/social development of all students thus preparing them with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in high school and beyond.

How is a student referred to the guidance office?
Students may be referred to the counselor by parents, teachers, administrators, or peers, or they may self-refer.

What does the guidance counselor do?
- Helps students resolve problems which interfere with learning
- Facilitates educational and career planning
- Increases knowledge of self and others
- Supports students with specific needs
- Offers crisis intervention and prevention
- Provides individual/small group support for student or family concerns
- Attends meetings with parents and teachers as requested
- Communicates with collateral contacts (therapists, doctors, ER) as necessary
- Point person for "at-risk" behavior (suicidal ideation, self injury, 51As)
- Monitors student progress
- Attends Special Education Team Meetings as requested
- Team member of school Crisis Team
- Provides referrals to community agencies to assist students facing personal or family concerns outside the scope of the school counseling program

What does the guidance counselor provide for parents?
- Facilitates a home/school partnership in fostering school success
- Provides support for parents regarding their child's educational development
- Shares information with parents (as needed) to help clarify and/or solve student and/or school-related problems.
Information for Parents/Guardians
Supporting Your Child's Learning

DEVELOPING GOOD HABITS

Use the Agenda Book to your advantage!

The Agenda Book is a basic organization tool in which students record both daily and long-term assignments. In addition to recording assignments, the planner can be used to help parents monitor their child's work and communicate with teachers. There are two different calendars in the Agenda Book, the monthly calendar and the weekly calendar.

What do we use the Monthly Calendar for?
- To keep track of long term assignments
- To record when tests and/or quizzes are scheduled

Have your Agenda Book with you during every class. Every time your teacher tells you about a long term assignment or test/quiz, jot it down in your monthly calendar.

Use the stickers on the last page to help you remember important dates.

What do we use the Weekly Calendar for?
- To record daily homework assignments and any special instructions the teachers give you
- Write down what supplies you will need to complete the assignment
- Prioritize your assignments
  - Put a (1) next to the most important assignment, a (2) next to the second most important assignment, and so on
- Check off assignments as they are completed
- Use the "after school" section to schedule time for homework/studying

In the weekly calendar, take advantage of the amount of space each subject gives you. Write down exact page numbers of a book, which math problems you are supposed to do, etc.

If there is no homework in a particular subject (not even studying for an upcoming quiz/test), put a smiley face in that subject area — a smiley face means no homework! :)

Keep track of all your graded work. This will help you know what grade you have throughout the quarter so that when the quarter ends, there are no surprises for you or your parents.

Lastly, it is important to try to schedule one day per week to reorganize your book bag and locker or to sort papers in your notebooks.
Establishing a Study Time and Place

- A good home study location.
  - is a quiet place, free of distractions (exception: some kids like having quiet music playing in the background)
  - has good lighting
  - includes a chair, requiring the student to sit up straight, and a table or desk
  - should be used each time the student studies
  - parents should be available if their child needs help

- Discuss and establish with your child the time of day that will be set aside for homework. Late afternoon and early evening are the best times. It is important to consider whether your child needs "down" time when they get home from school before starting their homework or if your child would do better starting immediately.

- Discuss with your child the length of time that is to be set aside for homework. A 6th grade student at Miles River has approximately 20 to 30 minutes of homework per subject per night. This, of course, is an estimate and your child needs to understand that the actual time to complete assignments will vary each day based on assignments and scheduled tests.

- Plan for study breaks. Some students are able to concentrate for long periods of time while others need to break every 20 minutes. Your child's age and individual needs will help you to determine how long they can concentrate before needing a rest. Using a kitchen timer to signal break time and back to work time is helpful (a break should be no more than 5 minutes).

  Do not allow this study time to be the source of a power struggle. Make it clear that school is your child's responsibility.
Additional Ways to Help

- STAYING AFTER FOR EXTRA HELP
  - We encourage students to stay after school to
    - Get extra help
    - Study for tests
    - Redo assignments
    - Do their homework
    - Work on projects, etc.
  - Teachers are always here until at least 2:50 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
  - Students can also use their Academic Support block to see teachers (but only if the teacher is available).

- Your child will have a "STUDY BUDDY" for each of their classes who will collect work when your child is absent and with whom they can review notes, study, and share information.
- Encourage your child to participate in class discussions and ask questions. If they are uncomfortable asking questions during the class, encourage them to see the teacher at the end of the period or after school.
- Do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers or school counselor with any questions that you have regarding your child's adjustment and progress in school.
Tips for Parents/Caregivers

- Bring your child to the middle school during the summer to help them get comfortable with the building. Older siblings or friends can guide them through the building, pointing out classrooms, the Library, gymnasium and cafeteria.

- Encourage your child to participate in clubs/activities.

- Create a consistent supervised study time for your child. Establish a study area that can be monitored.

- Encourage your child to ask for extra help when needed.

- Check in periodically about your child's progress.

- Allow your child to gain a sense of independence and responsibility.

- Encourage your child to advocate for themselves.

- It is important that your child is on time for school. Too much tardiness may cause them to fall behind.

- Stay in communication with your child's educators through phone, email and your child's agenda book.

- Finally, DON'T forget that your child is young and there will be bumps in the road. Mistakes will be made, but it's all a part of the learning process.
Resources for Middle School

Books for Parents:

The Everything Tween Book: A Parent’s Guide to Surviving the Turbulent Pre-Teen Years by Linda Sonna

The Rollercoaster Years by Charlene C. Giannetti

Books for Students:

Too Old for This, Too Young for That!: Your Survival Guide for the Middle School Years by Harriet S. Mosatche

How I Survived Middle School by Nancy Krulik

Middle School: The Real Deal- From Cafeteria Food to Combination Locks by Juliana Farrell

Middle School is Worse than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff by Jennifer L. Holm and Elicia Castaldi

Help! I’m in Middle School…How will I Survive? by Merry L. Gumm
Information for the First Two Days of School
We are very excited that your child will be attending Miles River Middle School and we look forward to meeting your student on Orientation Day. As you may know, our school participates in the nationwide mentor program called "The Boomerang Project" which we refer to as H2O at Miles River Middle School. H2O stands for "Help to Others" and our sole purpose of the program is to help sixth graders feel more comfortable as well as help them achieve success in their first year of middle school.

The H2O sixth grade orientation and transition program is designed to both welcome and support sixth graders by assigning them an 8th grade H2O leader as a mentor during their first year. This H2O leader is a responsible older student who was hand selected from a large pool of applicants and has met the qualifications of being a good role model and a positive leader on our campus. Following is some information to let you know what you and your student can expect in advance of their first day of school.

- Your student will receive an invitation in the mail towards the end of the summer.
- Your student is encouraged not to bring backpacks, purses or other similar items as the day is quite active
- Because the day is active please make sure that your student wears comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement.
- Lunch will be provided — a barbeque put together by the wonderful teachers of Miles River Middle School

Please note that orientation day is for 6th grade students only.

We look forward to meeting you and your student on orientation day!

The H2O Coordinators,
Kristen Herzog and Jessica Clark
A 6th Grader's Official First Day at Miles River Middle School

WHEN: The first day of school for all students is WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2014

WHAT TO BRING: You must bring a pencil. If you prefer, you can also bring your school supplies from the supply list you received over the summer or you can wait until you return after Labor Day weekend. Your first day will start out by getting on the bus in the morning. Upon getting off the bus, you will go directly to the cafeteria and be met by the administrators and counselors of the school. After a brief introduction, you will be directed to your homeroom to meet your teacher.

HOMEROOM: During homeroom on that first day, you will receive your schedule. Your homeroom teacher will go over your schedule and help you create an easy to read version. Next, you will receive your student agendas. Your homeroom teacher will give you tips on how the agenda can help you be successful in the 6th grade. Finally, you will then briefly attend the classes on your schedule. A sample of a 6th grade schedule is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:40</td>
<td>Homeroom to receive your schedule, agenda book, locker, and lock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:52</td>
<td>A Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:44</td>
<td>B Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:36</td>
<td>C Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:28</td>
<td>D Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20</td>
<td>E Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:12</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:44</td>
<td>F Block</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:33</td>
<td>G Block</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2:20: Dismissal — Proceed outside to board the appropriate bus. Faculty members will be outside to assist the students in getting on the correct bus.
Ways to Calm First-Day Jitters

Visit the school ahead of time.
· Locate your classrooms
· Figure out the best way to get from one classroom to the next
· Find the locations of bathrooms, the cafeteria, the gym, the library, the nurse's office, and other important offices

Practice new routines.
· Start going to bed and waking up on the school schedule a couple weeks before school even starts.
· Go over your bus stop route.

Go over the student handbook.
Understand the rules and consequences for things like:
· The dress code
· Internet use
· Restricted items such as cell phones
· Late arrivals and absences

Learn your schedule
· Go over it ahead of time
· Figure out a system for remembering which class to go to next.
· Make sure you keep a copy in your white binder and in your locker.
Frequently Asked Questions

How many classes are in one day?
- There are 7 classes per day
- Each class is 50 minutes except on Wednesdays when the classes are shorter at 42 minutes

How long do we have for lunch?
- Each lunch period is 30 minutes
- The first 15 is eating time; the last 15 is recess time (weather permitting)

Is Miles River Middle School big?
- Miles River has 2 floors.
- The 6th grade lockers and MOST classrooms are in the first floor hallway.

Do we have to take a foreign language?
- YES! Spanish is one of the 5 core academic classes.

Do we have our own lockers?
- Each 6th grader is assigned a locker during homeroom on the first day school.
- The lockers are grouped by homeroom class.
- Your homeroom teacher will provide you with a lock and combination.
- Your teacher will give you plenty of time to practice your combination.

How long do we get between classes?
- You will have 2 minutes to get to your next class.

Do we stop at our locker after every class?
- No, designated locker times are as follows:
  - In the morning when you arrive
  - In between B and C blocks (so that you can have your snack in your C block class)
  - Before your lunch period
  - After your lunch period
  - At the end of the day after the final bell rings

Are the teachers nice?
- YES! We have a wonderful faculty and staff. Our 6th grade teachers are very nice and supportive.

Can we carry a backpack?
- Backpacks and bags must be kept in your locker during the school day.

Is there a lot of homework in 6th grade?
- About 20 - 30 minutes per subject per day
- Teachers often give class time to start homework, and students are encouraged to use their Academic Support time as well

Is there a dress code?
- Yes. Please review in your Student Handbook on the MRMS webpage
We are so excited to meet each and every one of you. We look forward to a fun, safe, and successful 2014-2015 school year!

Sincerely,
The Faculty and Staff of Miles River Middle School